

A true

ACCOUNT

Of the late Extraordinary

Frost and Snow,

And the great

DAMAGES

Thereby sustained in divers parts of *England*.

As also how Twenty five Children
lost their Lives all at once on the Ice at *Wish-
bich*. And the destruction of divers Cat-
tle in the *North*, &c.

Faithfully Collected from Letters sent to several
Persons in *London*, and other certain Informations.

With a Description of the Tents,
Booths, &c. Erected upon the River of
Thames.

With Allowance. *Kings L'Estrange*.

LONDON: Printed for D.M. 1677.

OF THE
TROLLAND SNOW

D A M A G E S

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As also how Twenty five Children
lost their lives all at once on the ice at W.
And the destruction of divers Ca-
bles in the North, &c.

Faithfully Collected from I. Peters, sent to several
Persons in London, and other certain Informations.

With a Description of the Tents
Boats, &c. Erected upon the River of
Thames.

With Allowance. Roger L. B. 1740.
LONDON: Printed for D. M. 1740.

News from the Country, &c.

IT may be remembered how mild and gentle the Winters, for several Years past, have proved in our Climate; so that scarce a Prophecy, reckoning up amongst other Signs, the last Times, that Summer should be such a fair Winter, that by the Fall of the Leaf, had had some special Reference to the Age we live in. By this present Season, it hath pleased Providence to change the Weather, into a sharper and more severe Constitution, which seem'd so much the more harsh and insupportable, by how much it was more rare; and our tender Bodies less accus- tomed thereunto.

If we were bound to sing the Natural and Astral Causes of the late late Frost and deep Snow, the two Oppositions of Saturn and Mars, and the way, all located in Cold, Earthy and Watery Signs, very fully might presage or denote the same: Whence the judicious Mr. Lilly, in his Observations on this very Month, twice most truly predicted or mentioned, *Great Snow, &c.* But we are not now writing an Astrological Discourse, but a Relation, and therefore hasten to matter of Fact.

In the Moneth of *Novemb.* 1676. hapned a considerable Frost, which soon after broke, and was followed for some days with a milder Air; but on *Saturday* the 9th of *December*, just upon the *Moon* coming to an Opposition of the *Sun*, vulgarly called *The Full of the Moon* (because then the *Sun*, from whom by reflection she borrows all her Lustre, plac'd diametrically against her, illuminates full half of her opacous body with his beams) at that time, I say, the weather begins again to grow sharp, accompanied with a continual descent of Snow for almost Eight and forty hours at *London*, and in some other parts much longer; and from thence encreased with a greater extremity of Coldness for almost a Fortnight following, insomuch that several aged and judicious persons averr'd, That they never knew it freeze in *England* more severely in their lives, than now it did for the time: And yet to render it more remarkable, 'twas observ'd that this rigid Frost began, the Wind being at *South*, generally reckon'd the warmest of any point of the Compass.

This Severity of the Weather, together with the deepness of the Snow in many places, occasion'd much Damage not only to Cattle, but several Persons also lost their Lives: The Relation of some few of which Disasters, as they came accidentally to our hand, take as follows.

And Observations on this very Morning, were made, which were not now winter, as Astronomical Doctors, but a Relation, and therefore called a matter of Fact.

*An Abstract of a Letter from Briggs in Lin-
colnshire, dated the 18th of December,
1676*

Loving Friend,

My Love, &c. I had writ to you last
Week, but could not, the Weather
was so bad; for we have had such a Snow, that
the oldest Man alive cannot remember the
like. It was three foot deep in most places,
and destroyed many scores of Sheep; I lost
several, and half a dozen young Lambs, not
withstanding I used all the care I could to pre-
serve them. The Ways were not passable on
foot or horseback for several daies; and I
hear some poor People up higher in the Coun-
try, venturing abroad, lost their Lives in
the great Drifts of Snow, &c.

*Part of another Letter from Bourn in Cam-
bridge-shire, of the 26th of December,*

---VVe have had a sad time for Frost and
Snow; in which several were drowned,
sliding

sliding on the Ice ; and three Miles from
hence, a poor man riding in the Night, mis-
took the Bridge (it being cover'd over with
Snow) and so both horse and man were drow-
ned in the River, &c.

The sad Accident at *Witch*, mentioned in this
last Letter, is confirmed in several particular ac-
counts sent up to divers Citizens of *London*, but in
the particulars they differ. It is said that some
Boys unhappily made a Match at Foot-ball upon the
Ice ; and having without any harm plaid out one
Goal, and laid down the Ball for another, both
sides meeting altogether in a huddle on the middle,
so that the Ice suddenly broke down with their
weight, and divers of them were miserably de-
stroyed, to the infinite grief of their Parents and
Relations : the rest escaping not without mira-
culous Deliverance. Which sad Example we
hope may serve as a warning to all Lads, not to
expose themselves hereafter in such dangerous at-
tempts, as some very imprudently have done during
this Frost, by venturing too soon or too far upon
the Ice, who have certainly great reason to bless
Gracious Providence, for preserving them from that
hazard and Destruction, which might unexpectedly
have attended such their rash Presumption. We
cannot certainly aver this Relation, but deliver it as
it is generally believed.

We are likewise credibly informed from the same
source

from Road. That a poor Post-Boy riding towards *Salthay*, on *Monday* the 11th of *December*, in the Night losing his Way, by reason of the vast Snow, which had filled up all the Roads, wander'd up and down the Plain so long in despair, that at last the Cold seizing on his Spirit, he fell off his Horse in a Snow'd and perished; being found the next day by some persons, that missing the *Mail* long after the usual manner, and fearing some mischance had befall the Post, went out to look for him, and after long search, first found out the Horse, and afterwards by his Track the Boy, but not recoverable to Life.

Besides these remote Accidents, there happen'd several Disasters in and near this City of *London*. As a poor Creature kill'd by an unlucky fall, by reason of the slipperiness of the street, and the badness of walking, in the Parish of *St. Saviour* (commonly called *St. Mary Overie*) *Aldersgate*; and a Dray-man by a barrel of Beer, falling on his back, in the Parish of *St. Ruttolphe Aldersgate*, both which were inserted in the Weekly-bill of Mortality.

To which we might adde divers sad Examples in several parts of this Town, that broke their legs, arms, and other parts of their bodies: As likewise the violence of the Ice, which carried away the new Bridge at *Black-fryers*-stairs, though fixed on Piles driven some yards into the ground. The Frost being so extream, that thousands have gone over the *Thames* on foot, and at this instant Carts, Drays, &c. pass the same on this side *Brainford*; and Tents, Booths, and Shops kept on the Ice against *Westminster*.

for, where they made Fire, roasted Meate, sold
Drink, &c. the like whereof hath not been known
in our Age; and is but once, as I am sure to be
parallel'd in all our antient Chronicles.

'Tis not to be doubted, but thousands of poor
people in this hardship of Weather were in great
want; and we wish that Rich mens Charity may
not have been as cold and harsh as the Season to-
wards their indigent and distressed Neighbours. 'Tis
certainly under such Circumstances that we ought to
open our hands, our purses, and our hearts, to re-
lieve the necessities of our brethren, lest whilst we
unchristianly suffer them to starve or perish for
Cold, we expose our selves for such unmercifulness
to the danger of everlasting burnings.

FINIS.

